

2015-16 NCACC Legislative Goals

The following goals were approved at the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference, which was held Jan. 15-16 in Moore County. Voting delegates were asked to rank their top 5 goals after the voting was complete.

Top 5 goals

1. HH-1: Support continued state funding of Medicaid and support efforts by the state to provide healthcare access for all citizens.
2. PE-1: Seek legislation to restore the statutory requirement that 40% of the net lottery proceeds be allocated to counties for school capital needs and increase the annual appropriation of lottery funds until the 40% allocation is restored.
3. PE-4: Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. G.S. 115C-431(c) that allows local school boards to file suit against a county board of commissioners over county appropriations for education.
4. GG-1: Oppose any shift of state transportation responsibilities to counties.
5. TF-1: Oppose unfunded mandates and shifts of state responsibilities to counties.

Agriculture

AG-1: Support state funding and staffing for agricultural research, Cooperative Extension services and other agriculture-related efforts to support the largest economic driver in North Carolina.

AG-2: Support legislation to authorize farmers to grow industrial hemp as a cash crop.

Environment

ENV-1: Seek legislation to study and fund a comprehensive statewide approach to control invasive aquatic noxious weeds in the state's waters. (Amended)

ENV-2: Seek legislation to establish a mechanism for local governments to recover costs associated with providing services or reversing negative effects on the community related to natural gas and oil exploration industry and coal ash storage. (Amended)

ENV-3: Seek legislation to clarify that counties have the authority to establish by ordinance a program for the collection of residential recyclable materials and to charge fees to recover the costs.

General Government

GG-1: Oppose any shift of state transportation responsibilities to counties.

GG-2: Support legislation, regulations and funding that would preserve local option and authority where needed to deploy community broadband systems and ensure community access to critical broadband services.

GG-3: Support new or expanded state funding streams that will provide sufficient revenues to adequately fund the state's transportation infrastructure needs also to include coastal infrastructure, i.e. coastal storm damage reduction and shallow draft inlet maintenance. (Amended)

GG-4: Support legislation to grant all counties the option to provide notice of public hearings and other legal notices through electronic means in lieu of required publication in any newspaper.

GG-5: Seek legislation to authorize special elections in any year in which there is an election.

GG-6: Oppose collective bargaining programs for local government employees.

GG-7: Seek legislation to amend NCGS 132-1(b), "Public Records" by changing "the people" to "its citizens."

GG-8: Support adequately funding the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission so it may continue to address the statewide priorities it has established. (added at conference)

GG-9: Seek legislation to increase state funding of local county Veterans Service offices. (added at conference)

Health and Human Services

HH-1: Support continued state funding of Medicaid and support efforts by the state to provide healthcare access for all citizens.

HH-2: Support the current model of public mental health administration, ensure adequate state funding for services and facilities at the local level, and structure appropriate county participation in governance.

HH-3: Support legislation to adequately fund Public Health Services at the Local Health Department level for programs and services considered mandated and/or essential to the Public's Health under N.C. GS 130A-1.1 and 10A NCAC 46.0201.

HH-4: Support legislation to ensure adequate Medicaid reimbursement levels from the state to cover cost of services and use federal guidelines for determination of medical necessities.

HH-5: Oppose shifting or cutting money from federal and state block grants, including TANF, SSBG, CCDBG, HCCBG and WCH for mandated services.

HH-6: Seek legislation to improve financing and regulatory issues for the purpose of ensuring the viability of rural hospitals.

HH-7: Support Medicaid reimbursement to EMS for mental health and substance abuse transport to crisis centers.

HH-8: Seek legislation to require the NC Department of Health and Human Services to adjust the current accounting, reporting and expenditure requirements to allow counties to realize the full benefits from consolidation efforts as outlined in HB438.

HH-9: Advocate for implementation of statewide case management system(s) for both Child Welfare and Adult Protective Services.

HH-10: Oppose legislation that would weaken county management of nonemergency Medicaid transport.

HH-11: Advocate for adequate state funding for services to vulnerable older adults and disabled adults needing protective and public guardianship services.

HH-12: Seek legislation to reverse changes made to the childcare subsidy program available to working families.

Justice and Public Safety

JPS-1: Seek legislation for greater flexibility in county governments' use of 911 funds and protect current funding streams.

JPS-2: Seek legislation to reimburse counties for participating in the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program at the rate of \$75 per day. (amended)

JPS-3: Support state funding for gang prevention, adolescent substance abuse and domestic violence prevention, intervention and treatment.

Public Education

PE-1: Seek legislation to restore the statutory requirement that 40% of the net lottery proceeds be allocated to counties for school capital needs and increase the annual appropriation of lottery funds until the 40% allocation is restored.

PE-2: Oppose shifting of the state's responsibility for replacement of school buses.

PE-3: Support legislation to fully fund state-mandated education programs from state revenue sources.

PE-4: Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. G.S. 115C-431(c) that allows local school boards to file suit against a county board of commissioners over county appropriations for education.

PE-5: Support realistic ADM Growth projections as part of the continuation budget.

PE-6: Seek legislation to provide flexibility to local school districts to align public school and community college calendars. (added at conference)

Tax and Finance

TF-1: Oppose unfunded mandates and shifts of state responsibilities to counties.

TF-2: Support legislation to grow North Carolina's statewide economy through sound state investments, including public infrastructure funding, competitive incentives, and coordinated efforts with county economic development services. (a) Adopt new approaches to economic development incentives to include rural counties; (b) Restore the film and historic preservation tax credits and; (c) Maintain grant funding for rural infrastructure projects.

TF-3: Oppose legislation that erodes the existing local revenue base.

TF-4: Seek legislation to authorize local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction.

TF-5: Support legislation to restore state aid funding of public libraries to the pre-2011 level of \$15.7 million and eliminate special provisions that distribute state aid outside of the equitable formula developed by the State Library Commission.

TF-6: Seek legislation to expand local option sales tax by allowing for Board of Commissioners resolution or public referendum.

TF-7: Seek administrative or legislative solution to ensure accurate reporting of sales tax by county.

TF-8: Seek a legislative study of the impact to local government finances of exempting previously taxable properties from the property tax base when acquired by nonprofits.

TF-9: Seek legislation to renew the study of compensation to counties for property acquired by the state and removed from the ad valorem tax base.

TF-10: Seek legislation to prevent title transfers of vehicles on which property taxes are owed. (added at conference)